

**Film guide**

## The Wizard of Oz

USA | 1939 | Cert. U | 98 mins  
Director: Victor Fleming

A timeless family musical and one of cinema's much loved productions, *The Wizard of Oz* sees young Dorothy Gale longing to escape her black-and-white Kansas farm for somewhere new. After a dramatic tornado carries her off to a strange Technicolour land, Dorothy must work together with three new friends in order to reach the Emerald City if she is to return home.



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**You will like this film if you liked**

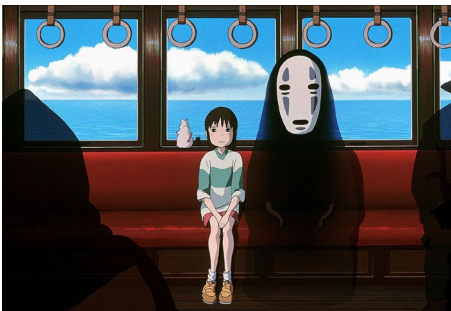
*The Neverending Story* (1984, U)



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**Watch next**

*Spirited Away* (2001, PG)



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**Talk about it before the film**

What do you know about *The Wizard of Oz* already? Can you name any of the songs, characters or other features of the film? How did you learn about these?

**Discussion points**

- What do you remember of the songs in the film? Which were your favourites? Did the songs featured in the film help you to understand the story? What do you think Dorothy is singing about in 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'?
- How did you feel when the film transformed from black-and-white to colour? What things did you first notice? Do you think it improved the film?
- Aside from the colour, what else changed in the land of Oz? Are there any similarities between Kansas and Oz?
- On the way to the Emerald City, Dorothy makes three new friends. How would you describe each character? What was unusual about them? How did they help each other along the way?
- Why do you think Dorothy has to repeat the phrase "there's no place like home" to return to Kansas? What do you think the moral of the story is?

**Write about it**

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

**Extension Activities**

Write a letter to a friend or family member describing Dorothy's adventures throughout the film. Think about the characters she met on her journey. How would you describe them? What did the different locations look like? How did the story develop?